(SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) No negotiations regarding Ayodhya issue were held by any officer in the Prime Minister's Office in the recent past. Shankaracharya of Kanchi, however, met the Prime Minister on the 4th February, 2003 and discussed issues relating to civic amenities for the pilgrims visiting Ayodhya and urban development of Ayodhya town.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Begging in Delhi

4215. SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that begging has become a lucrative option at traffic intersections at almost all the *red* lights in Delhi; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken by Government to control the situation and whether Government conduct raids regularly to keep the menace in check?

THE MINISTER OF STATE 'N THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi have constituted an anti-begging squad for conducting raids at public places with a view to apprehend beggers. Besides, in order to wean them away from beggary, custodial institutions have been set up where they are provided, *inter-alia,* vocational training, counseling and guidance.

Report sought by India from UAE about killings of gangster

4216. SHRI SAN JAY NIRUPAM : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have sought any report from the UAE Government regarding the killing of Sharad Shetty, a member of Dawood Ibrahim gang; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK): (a) The Central Government has not sought any formal report from the UAE in this matter.

(b) Does not arise.